

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 10053 060612Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 VO-03 IO-14 INR-10 CIAE-00
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R 060433Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
SECSTATE WASHDC 2667
INS WASHDC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 10053

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF LA TH
SUBJ: HMONG INFLUX INTO NONG KHAI PROVINCE

REF: BANGKOK 9445

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY BANGKOK FM AMCONSUL UDORN
DATED APRIL 5, 1978 BEING REPEATED TO YOU POST

QUOTE
UDORN 0087

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF LA TH
SUBJ: HMONG INFLUX INTO NONG KHAI PROVINCE

REF: UDORN 0080 AND PREVIOUS.

1. CONREP TRAVELLED TO BUNG KAN AND PHON PHISAI DISTRICTS
APRIL 3 TO OBTAIN FOLLOWING UPDATE ON HMONG INFLUX INTO NONG
KHAI PROVINCE.
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2. NUNG KAN OFFICIALS REPORT TOTAL OF 114 HMONG ENTERED DISTRICT
DURING PERIOD MARCH 28-APRIL 3. THEY STATE THERE ARE NOW TOTAL OF
400 HMONG REFUGEES BEING DETAINED AT DISTRICT, PLUS 28 LOWLAND
LAO AND VIET-LAO REFUGEES. PHON PHISAI DISTRICT SPOKESMAN STATES
57 HMONG REFUGEE SOUGHT REFUGE IN DISTRICT DURING PERIOD MARCH 28-
APRIL 3.

3. OUR UNOFFICIAL TALLY OF HMONG REFUGEES ENTERING TWO DISTRICTS SINCE FIRST ARRIVALS MARCH 1, NOW STANDS AT 975. (DURING SAME PERIOD TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 60 LOWLAND LAO, THAI DAM AND VIET-LAO REFUGEES ALSO FLED TO THESE DISTRICT ON HEELS OF HMONG) EARLIER ARRIVAL OF 600-800 HMONG, PRIMARILY FROM PHU MA THAO AREA, AT BUNG KAN AND PHON PHISAI DURING PERIOD FROM LATE DECEMBER, 1977 UNTIL EARLY THIS FEBRUARY, MAKES GRAND TOTAL OF ESTIMATED 1600-1800 HMONGS THAT HAVE ESCAPED TO TWO DISTRICTS DURING PAST THREE AND A HALF MONTHS.

4. HMONG REPRESENTATIVES AMONG NEW ARRIVALS AT BUNG KAM AND PHON PHISAI INTERVIEWED BY CONREP APRIL 3 REPORT SIGNIFICANTLY STEPPED-UP EFFORTS BY LPDR BORDER SECURITY FORCES, POSSIBLY SUPPORT BY SRV UNITS, TO INTERCEPT HMONG REFUGEES ATTEMPTING TO CROSS MEKONG RIVER. BOTH SOURCES CLAIMED THAT LPDR TROOPERS CAPTURED LARGE GROUP OF HMONGS, ESTIMATED TO NUMBER FROM 200-600, AROUND MARCH 20-22 AND TOOK THEM TO PAKSANE.

5. HMONG SPOKESMAN INTERVIEWED IN BUNG KAN STATED APPROXIMATELY 500 HMONG, WEAKENED BY LACK OF FOOD AND DISCOURAGED BY DANGERS OF BORDER CROSSING, RECENTLY ABANDONED HOPE OF ESCAPING TO THAILAND AND BEGAN LONG TREK BACK TO PHU BIA AREA. THIS IS FIRST SUCH REPORT WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED SINCE CURRENT HMONG INFLUX BEGAN NONETHELESS, BOTH HMONG AND THAI SOURCES STATE THEY CONTINUE TO EXPECT LARGE NUMBER OF NEW REFUGEE.
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6. CONREP ALSO VISITED NONG KHAI DETENTION CENTER AND REFUGEE CAMP. OFFICIAL AT FORMER REPORT CURRENT NUMBER OF DETAINEES AT 408, INCLUDING 88 HMONG. OFFICIAL POPULATION COUNT AT LATTER LOCATION IS NOW 24, 113.

7. WE ALERTED CAMA SERVICE REP ANDRIANOFF TO LATEST HMONG ARRIVALS, HE LAST VISITED BUNG KAN AND PHON PHISAI MARCH 26 AND WILL MAKE ANOTHER TRIP APRIL 6 TO DISTRIBUTE CLOTHING, BLANKETS, RICE AND SALT.

8. POST ALSO CONTACTED IRC NONG KHAI MEDIC DR. GARCIA WHO INFORMED US SHE JUST RETURNED FROM CONDUCTING CLINIC FOR NEW HMONG REFUGEES AT BUNG KAN APRIL 3. SHE SAID SHE ALSO DISTRIBUTED SOAP AND MILK. HER NEW ASSISTANT, DR. LEVI ROQUE, TREATED HMONG REFUGEES AT PHON PHISAI MARCH 31. BOTH DOCTORS REPORT HMONG WERE IN VERY POOR PHYSICAL CONDITION.

9. DR. GARCIA STATED THAT SHE IS ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENT WITH BUNG KAN DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER WHEREBY, IN EXCHANGE FOR HER PROVIDING HIM WITH MEDICAL SUPPLIES, HE WILL BEGIN TO TREAT HMONGS AT DISTRICT CLINIC ON A REGULAR BASIC. DR. GARCIA

STATES THAT HER CURRENT STOCK OF MEDICINES FOR HMONG, LARGELY DONATED BY NORWEGIAN RELIEF COUNCIL, IS ABOUT EXHAUSTED. SHE PLANS TO SEEK ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY DURING BUSINESS TRIP TO BANGKOK APRIL 5-7. WE SUGGESTED SHE TRY ICRC OFFICE.

10. COMMENT

UPI ARTICLE CONCERNING HMONG INFLUX APPEARING IN BANGKOK POST APRIL 4 IS MISLEADING ON SEVERAL ACCOUNTS. FOR EXAMPLE, CONTRARY TO WHAT LOCAL SOURCES TOLD UPI, HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES SUCH AS CAMA SERVICES, IRC AND ICRC ARE PROVIDING ALL BASIC SUPPORT ITEMS, INCLUDING MEDICINES, AND NEARLY ALL FOOD MADE AVAILABLE TO INCOMING HMONG REFUGEES. AS BEST WE CAN DETERMINE THESE AGENCIES ARE PROVIDING THIS SUPPLRT IN AN EFFECTIVE AND COMPASSIONATE MANNER. ALSO, DESPITE IMPRESSION GIVE BY ARTICLE, MOST HMONGS UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE MOVED TO NONG KHAI WITHIN TEN DAYS. CURRENT BACKLOG OF REFUGEES IN BUNG KAN FOR PAST TWO WEEKS HAS BEEN AN EXCEPTION. AUTHOR OF UPI ARTICLE DID NOT RPT NOT RECEIVE BRIEFING FROM CONSULATE.

11. POST HAS FILED TWO PREVIOUS REPORTS ON HMONG INFLUX, INCLUDING REFTTEL, DURING PAST TEN DAYS BUT UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO PERSISTANT TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, THEY WERE RECEIVED IN GARBLED FORM BY EMBASSY C&R. POST'S FSO COMMUNICATOR IS PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE PROBLEM/WHILE IN BANGKOK ON POUCH RUN. FINNEY UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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